THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
are a great option that makes going to college accessible, affordable and a real step toward a better future for your children.

TRANSFERRING
from a California community college to a four-year college or university is a smart way to earn a baccalaureate degree at a much lower cost. Studies done by the University of California and the California State University systems prove that students who start at a community college do at least as well as students who begin at a four-year institution when it comes to graduation rates and grades.
10 EXCELLENT REASONS
TO BEGIN AT A CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TRANSFER TO COMPLETE A BACHELOR’S DEGREE:

1. PRIORITY #1
Did you know that approximately 32% of students graduating from University of California (UC) and 66% graduating from California State University (CSU) campuses started at a community college? Students transferring from California Community Colleges are designated as first priority for admission at the junior level for the UC and CSU systems. This means that by attending a California Community College first, you are in a great position to transfer to your target institution.

2. SUCCESS RATES
Research shows that students transferring from California Community Colleges do just as well academically or even better than those students who attend right out of high school when comparing retention rates, graduation rates, and drop-out rates.

3. ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS
Each community college maintains articulation agreements with many four-year colleges and universities. These agreements show how course credits earned at a community college can be applied when a student transfers. All of the articulation agreements are stored on the ASSIST website (www.assist.org). Community college counselors can help students use this information to map out an exact educational plan for transfer to the college or university they choose. The agreements clearly outline what courses are equivalent to the courses taught at the four-year institutions, thereby assuring that credits earned at the community college will be counted when they transfer.

4. TRANSFER ADMISSION GUARANTEES
California community colleges have Transfer Admission Guarantee agreements with many baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities. If students successfully complete the specified coursework and follow any other steps listed in the agreement, they can be guaranteed admission as juniors at many prestigious schools including UC’s, CSU’s and private/independent colleges and universities.

5. PROXIMITY TO HOME
Leaving home for the first time can be a tough adjustment and it’s expensive. It’s just smart to get used to the college experience while living in a familiar environment.

Students can also continue to work at their job, which means being able to sock more money away to pay the higher costs for their junior and senior years.

6. PREPARING FOR THE REAL WORLD
Students learn an immeasurable amount from the diversity of their community classmatess — a diversity that is fostered by the convenience community college offers for parents, working students or people with other personal obligations. Racially, ethnically, economically and even age-wise, community colleges represent a cross section of the entire community.

7. GREATER FOCUS ON INSTRUCTION
Full-time community college professors are not required to conduct research and publish scholarly work in order to maintain tenure as they are in four-year institutions. Community college faculty members spend more hours in the classroom, on average, than faculty in any other sector of higher education. Most community college professors have a Master’s or higher degree in their field and teach at community colleges because they appreciate the smaller class sizes and engaging learning environment. When you consider that some UC and CSU students spend much of their freshman year in huge lecture halls with up to several hundred students, it isn’t surprising that many students and faculty alike consider the community college classroom to be their best choice.

8. SAVING MONEY ON TUITION
Attending community college before transferring to complete a bachelor’s degree at a four-year institution can save a sizeable chunk of change. Enrollment fees at a California community college average less than half of what is charged by public four-year universities and about one tenth of tuition at private four-year colleges, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. And community colleges have financial aid available for anyone who needs help paying for fees, books and supplies and other expenses. Information is available at www.icansaffordcollege.com.

9. TRANSFER EXPERTS
A Transfer Center at each community college serves as a resource for students to accomplish their transfer goal. Transfer Centers offer a library of material, transfer workshops, meetings with university representatives, assistance with questions and more in order to ensure a smooth transfer.

10. IT JUST MAKES SENSE